

miners, are pushing their work with all the speed possible. They have some five or six months' supply of provisions, and a ditch and sluice box in working order. They report having taken out gold enough in two days to pay all the expenses so far incurred. The citizens of Toledo have subscribed work and cash for the opening up and shortening of the road to the mining camp. Gold certainly exists in our foothills, and the men now out think they are on the right track."

Of the wheat crop of 1884 raised in the region tributary to Lewiston, Idaho, 135,000 bushels were shipped from that place by the Snake River boats. Already 2,000 tons of the crop of 1885 have been shipped, 3,000 are in store awaiting transportation, and as much more is still in the granaries of the farmers. This is a gain of 100 per cent. As soon as Lewiston has a railroad line through the Clearwater country and Camas Prairie it will become one of the largest grain shipping points in the interior. It will not be long before the thousands of idle acres of the Nez Percé Reservation will be thrown open to settlement and annually produce an enormous crop for export.

Yamhill County, it seems, has determined not to be outdone by her sister communities of Oregon in presenting her claims to the intending emigrant. We are informed from trustworthy sources that Mr. J. F. Cache, compiler of the history of Yamhill and Washington counties, is now actively engaged in collecting data for a pamphlet on Old Yamhill's resources. This is a fine scheme on the part of Mr. Cache, and we extend him our heartiest wishes that he may do justice to Yamhill and its present inhabitants. He proposes issuing an edition of 20,000, a number insufficient at that, to meet the demands of would-be locators in our midst.

The books of the Territorial Controller show that Idaho has taxable property assessed at \$15,973,600, about equally divided between real and personal property, and owned by 9,168 taxpayers. The total bonded and floating indebtedness of the fifteen counties is \$921,785, the cash in county treasuries \$100,546, and the value of county property \$326,512, leaving a net indebtedness of \$494,727. The heaviest debts are those of Ada, Alturas, Bingham and Oneida counties. Nez Percé shows the smallest ratio of debt to value of property, being respectively \$29,268 and \$1,712,762. The highest ratio is that of Alturas, being \$267,800 and \$3,315,895.

Another placer mining strike has been made in Montana, in the Big Hole country, in the southwestern portion of the Territory. Reports of work done by prospectors sound like those of early mining times. The new mines are located in Monument District, so named because of the granite shaft erected there to the memory of those who fell in the bloody battle of the Big Hole. The diggings are on the north fork of Big Hole River and not far from the battle ground. If they prove half as rich and extensive as predicted the farmers of Bitter Root Valley will find a good market for their produce in the mining camps that will spring up.

The rareness of genuine mica which will split into large, thin, transparent sheets renders that mineral extremely valuable, ranging from \$14 to \$22 per pound. The only real mica mine on the Coast now being worked is a few miles from Lewiston, Idaho. Recently one was discovered in the Cœur d'Alene region which has been named the "Mica Wonder." The mineral is said to be from seven to ten feet thick between well-defined walls of granite and shale, the slanting veins being separated by thin layers of soft spar. The owners have refused an offer of \$40,000 for their undeveloped claim. Several other locations have been made.

Experimental shipments of Montana potatoes have been made to St. Paul with satisfactory results, and it is said that a ready market can be found for a great quantity of them. The tubers raised in the dry, rich soil of Montana are superior to the product of the Mississippi Valley and ought to command a higher price in the Eastern market. Montana barley is also very superior, and is in demand among Eastern brewers. Potatoes and barley are the two most perfect crops of the Territory, and if a market can be created for them in the East the farmers will be encouraged to raise more extensive crops.

A new mining camp called "Gold Hill" has sprung up ten miles west of Colville, W. T., since the discovery there last summer of ledges of gold-bearing quartz. A ten-stamp mill has been purchased in San Francisco and set up on the hill for the working of ore from the Lady Franklin, Australian, Golden Eagle, Hail Columbia and Bunker Hill claims. Some of the ledges show quartz veins from one to three feet wide on the surface, and much is expected from their development. If they prove to be easy working ores at a depth of several hundred feet Gold Hill will soon become a noted camp.

The *Messenger*, Challis, Idaho, says: "The Clayton smelter closed down for the winter on the 25th of November, after the most successful summer's run it has ever made, leaving everything in the best possible condition—the ore house empty, the coal bins empty and the machinery in fine shape for another successful year's run. The output this year, although we do not know the exact figures, has been large, very large, and aggregates about 700 tons of bullion, matte and high grade ore of the average value of not far from 500 ounces per ton, or a total product of \$350,000."

Great confidence is felt by the people of Hailey in the future of the Wood River country, even if silver should receive a black eye in Congress, based upon the cheerful prospects before the "gold belt." This consists of several wide parallel veins of gold-bearing quartz, which the people of that region look upon as the working ground of several thousand miners in a few years. Two mills, one a regular twenty-stamp and the other a new Wiswell of about the same capacity, are already at work, and are demonstrating the value of the gold belt area.

It is generally understood that an agreement has been reached between the governments of Great Britain and Canada, whereby the Esquimalt station on Vancouver Island will be fortified and garrisoned. The Imperial Government will erect an arsenal, fortifications and barracks, and the Dominion Government will maintain a garrison of troops and a battery of artillery. It is also understood that a torpedo factory will be built and the dockyard enlarged to accommodate ships and iron-clads.

Gold has been discovered on the Coquillam River, only a few miles from New Westminster and Port Moody, B. C. As yet nothing definite is known of either the extent or richness of the diggings, but it is a general belief that good ground will be found on several streams in that vicinity. Prospecting is being done by a large number of men and much excitement prevails. Being so near cheap supplies of all kinds they will be less expensive mines to work than any yet discovered on the Coast.

The Alpha and Omega mines, thirty-five miles north of Helena, have been purchased for \$60,000 by business men of that city, who have incorporated a company for working them. This is the largest price paid for a mine in Montana since the big Drum Lammon sale. The locations are an extension of the Homestake, which has produced \$70,000 in the last seven months with a five-stamp mill.